


Connecticut's New Drunk Driving Law



.08

THE FACTS ARE...

Driving is a privilege, and under Connecticut's **IMPLIED CONSENT LAW** any person who operates a motor vehicle is presumed to have given his or her consent to a test to determine blood alcohol concentration (BAC).

You are legally intoxicated if your BAC is .08 or above. If you are under 21 years of age, you are legally intoxicated at a .02 BAC or higher.

Connecticut has enacted strong new measures to combat impaired driving. Stiff penalties, including mandatory sentencing and strict enforcement of our laws send a clear message:

**Driving under the
influence will not
be tolerated on
Connecticut's roadways.**

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)

In Connecticut, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is a criminal offense. This offense may be prosecuted with or without any direct evidence of a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC). The determining factor is whether a person's ability to drive has been impaired.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR DUI:

- You will be detained by the police and read your rights.
- Your vehicle will be towed at your expense.
- You will be taken in a police cruiser to the police station.
- You will be asked to submit to a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) test. If you refuse, your license will be suspended for 6 months (1st offense).
- If the test registers a BAC of .08 or higher, you will be held on the presumption that you were operating under the influence.
- You will be kept in a police lock-up until you are bailed out.

TWO WAYS TO LOSE YOUR LICENSE:

There are two laws to protect the citizens of Connecticut from the impaired driver:

- DRIVER'S LICENSE SANCTIONS
- CRIMINAL PENALTIES

The DRIVER'S LICENSE SANCTIONS (license suspension periods) outlined below have been revised recently and will be imposed IN ADDITION TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES. In most cases, the driver's license sanctions will be imposed much earlier. IN ALL CASES, they will be imposed in addition to criminal penalties and will appear on your driving record.

ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

Blood Alcohol Level	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Refusal to submit to a blood, breath or urine test	6 months	1 year	3 years
Test results of .02 or higher and you are under twenty-one years of age	90 days	9 months	2 years
Test results of .08 or higher; up to, but not including, .16	90 days	9 months	2 years
Test results of .16 or higher	120 days	10 months	2½ years

CRIMINAL LAW

Under Connecticut's criminal law, the driver arrested for DUI will receive both a summons and a court date. If the court proceedings result in a **conviction**, the following penalties must be imposed:

First Offense Test results of .08 or higher	Second Offense (within 10 years) Test results of .08 or higher	Third Offense (within 10 years of last conviction) Test results of .08 or higher
Fine: \$500 to \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$4,000	\$2,000 to \$8,000
Jail: 6 mo., 48 hrs minimum mandatory or 6 mo., suspended with 100 hrs. community service	2 yrs., 120 days minimum mandatory and 100 hrs. of community service	3 yrs., 1 yr. minimum mandatory and 100 hrs. of community service
Suspension: One year	Three years (or until you are 21 years of age, whichever is longer)	Permanent Revocation

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

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SUPPORTING AGENCIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Office of Policy and Management (OPM)
- Department of Public Safety-Division of State Police
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Connecticut's Court Support Services-Division of the Judicial Branch

Any amount of alcohol will affect driving ability. Alcohol's effect is magnified by emotions, physical condition, use of prescription drugs or other types of drugs, some over-the-counter medications and some herbal supplements.

BAC AND AREAS OF IMPAIRMENT

.08 concentrated attention,
speed control

.07

.06

information processing,
judgement **.05**

.04 coordination

eye movement
control, **.03**

standing
steadiness, **.02** tracking and steering
emergency
responses

.01 divided attention,
choice reaction time,
visual function

BAC